RELIEF TO UNEMPLOYED MEDICAL GRADUATES SCHEME

308. Sri Jayaprakash Shetty (Brahmavar).—

Will the Minister for Health be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of doctors appointed under relief to Unemployed Medical Graduates' Scheme in rural areas and the number of doctors joined the duties attached to them,

(*b*) whether the response is poor,

(*c*) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to improve the situation ?

Sri H. Siddaveerappa (Minister for Health).—

(*a*) 300. Out of 300 Medical Assistants appointed under the scheme relief to unemployed Medical Graduates, only 70 have reported to duty.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Central Council of Health have already been requested to enhance the stipend amount to Rs. 400 p.m. as against Rs. 300 p.m. now sanctioned.

ELECTIONS TO LOCAL BODIES

309. Sri Jayaprakash Shetty (Brahmavar).—
Will the Minister for Community Development and Social Welfare be pleased to state.—

whether there is any proposal to reconsider the Government decision to hold elections to local bodies during this summer in view of the unprecedented drought situation in the State ?

Sri M. Mallikarjuna Swamy (Minister for Community Development and Social Welfare).—Yes. Government have taken a decisiont to postpone the General elections to the Taluk Boards and Village Panchayats which are scheduled to be held during April and May 1973 respectively, in view of the fact that there has been movement of people from one place to another due to scarcity and famine conditions in the northern half of the State. It will not be possible to hold elections to the Village Panchayats and Taluk Boards as originally planned, as normal conditions do not now prevail.